

Clean version of the claims

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1.(amended) A rapidly disintegrating tablet similar to those designed to disintegrate in the mouth on contact with saliva in less than 30 seconds, forming an easy-to-swallow suspension, and based on an active substance in the form of coated microcrystals or microgranules, and a mixture of excipients including at least one disintegrating agent, a soluble agent and a lubricating agent, wherein the lubricating agent is in powder form and the greater part or the totality of it is distributed on the tablet surface and that its friability, measured as specified in the French Pharmacopoeia (10th Edition, V.5.1 - Friability of Tablets, January 1993), is less than 1 %, whereby said tablet can be packaged by standard processes and has the required and adequate hardness to enable it to be removed with ease from the blister pack in which it is packed, by perforating the seal thereof by pushing the tablet, with a substantially reduced risk of the tablet breaking during removal.

2. (amended) Tablet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein its largest dimension is greater than 5 mm.

~~3. (amended) Tablet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the lubricating agent is selected from the pharmaceutically acceptable lubricating agents which have a melting point of at least 35°C.~~

4. Tablet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the lubricating agent is selected from the group including magnesium stearate, sodium stearyl fumarate, stearic acid and micronized polyoxyethylene glycol.

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5. Tablet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the lubricating agent is magnesium stearate.

6. (amended) Tablet in accordance with claim 1, wherein the quantity of lubricating agent is in the range 0.2 to 10 parts per 1000 (weight of lubricating agent / total weight of tablet).

7. (amended) Tablet in accordance with one of Claim 1, wherein the lubricating agent has a particle size distribution such that its constituent particles adhere when it is sprayed against a surface.

8. (amended) Tablet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the disintegrating agent is selected from the group including cross-linked sodium carboxymethylcellulose, known in the industry as croscarmellose, crospovidone and their mixtures.

9. Tablet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the mixture of excipients may include a permeabilising agent, a solubilising agent, sweeteners, flavors and colorings.

10. Tablet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein it is designed to be packaged in blisters composed entirely of aluminum, which may in addition include a cover of a plastic material which is to be torn off before opening.

11. Process for the production of a tablet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the process involves the following sequence of steps:

- choosing, firstly, an active substance in the form of coated microcrystals or microgranules, and secondly, a set of excipients including a disintegrating agent, a soluble agent, and also a lubricating agent;
- mixing the active substance and the excipients with the exception of the greater part or the totality of the lubricating agent;
- feeding a quantity of this mixture necessary to form a tablet into the cavity of a compression device within which the mixture is to be compressed and onto the walls of which the necessary quantity of lubricating agent has been applied in advance;
- compressing the mixture and ejecting the tablet formed.

12. (amended) Process in accordance with Claim 11, wherein the compression forces are in the range 3 kN to 50 kN.

13. (new) Tablet according to claim 1, wherein its friability is less than 0.5%.

14. (new) Tablet in accordance with Claim 2, wherein its largest dimension is greater than greater than 17 mm.

15. (new) Tablet in accordance with claim 3, wherein the lubricating agent is selected from the pharmaceutically acceptable lubricating agents which have a melting point higher than 50°C.

16. (new) Tablet in accordance to claim 6, wherein the quantity of lubricating agent is in the range 3 to 6 parts per 1000 (weight of lubricating agent / total weight of tablet).

17. (new) Tablet in accordance with claim 7, wherein the lubricating agent has a particle size distribution less than 30 microns.

18. (new) Tablet in accordance with claim 17, wherein the lubricating agent has a particle size distribution less than 10 microns.

19. (new) Process in accordance with Claim 12, wherein the compression forces are in the range 4 kN to 40 kN.

20. (new) Process in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the compression forces are in the range 5 kN to 25 kN.